

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 9, 10 and 12-26 are now present in the application. Claim 9 is independent. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 9, 10, 12-18, 20, 22 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pei, U.S. Patent No. 5,682,043 (hereinafter Pei), in view of Wright, U.S. Patent No. 3,661,081 (hereinafter Wright), Himeshima et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,592,933 (hereinafter Himeshima), and Shinoda et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,674,553 (hereinafter Shinoda) ; Ireton, U.S. Patent No. 4,611,539 was cited as evidence. Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pei in view of Wright, Himeshima, and Shinoda, and further in view of Mourrellone, U.S. Patent No. 4,542,693 (hereinafter Mourrellone). Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pei in view of Wright, Himeshima and Shinoda, and further in view of Nagayama et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,701,055 (hereinafter Nagayama). Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pei in view of Wright, Himeshima, and Shinoda, and further in view of Watanabe et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,270,846 (hereinafter Watanabe). Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pei in view of Wright, Himeshima, and Shinoda, and further in view of Samworth, U.S. Patent No. 6,213,018 (hereinafter Samworth). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

The Examiner alleged that one skilled in the art would have the motivation to modify Pei in view of Himeshima's spacers and Shinoda's barriers. Applicants respectfully disagree. The Examiner in the instant Office Action stated his position that Pei's flexographic printing is to deposit the ink where it is desired on a substrate and not where it is not desired (see page 7, lines 5-7 and 16-18). Based upon the Examiner's position, Pei does not need the barrier ribs at all because Pei's printed material will be at the desired location. In other words, there is no reason to modify Pei using Shinoda's barriers or Himeshima's spacers to print the material at a desired location because Pei's printed material is already at the desired location.

Although Shinoda discloses the barriers 29 and Himeshima discloses the spacers 4, both of them fail to provide the motivation to modify Pei. In particular, Shinoda's barriers 29 are used to define the pixel areas so that the phosphor paste 28 can be pushed toward the space between the barriers 29 (see FIG. 2). Similarly, Himeshima's spacers 4 are used to define the pixel areas so that the electroluminescent thin film layer 10 can be formed in the space between the spacers 4 (see FIG. 1, col. 5, lines 11-28). Without the barriers 29 or the spacers 4, Shinoda or Himeshima would not be able to form the pixels. In other words, Shinoda or Himeshima requires the barriers 29/spacers 4 to define the desired locations of the EL materials. However, based upon the Examiner's position, since the flexographic printing used by Pei already prints the materials at the desired locations, Pei in fact teaches against using another element (i.e., barriers 29 or spacers 4) to repeatedly define the desired locations of the materials.

Therefore, one skilled in the art would not have the motivation as suggested by the Examiner to modify Pei's flexographic printing in view of Shinoda's barriers and Himeshima's spacers to form the barrier ribs on the substrate as recited in claim 9.

With regard to the Examiner's reliance on Wright, Nagayama, Mourrellone, Watanabe and Samworth, these references also fail to disclose the above-noted features as set forth in independent claim 9. Accordingly, these references fail to cure the deficiencies of Pei.

Accordingly, none of the references utilized by the Examiner individually or in combination teach or suggest the above-noted features of independent claim 9. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 9 and their dependent claims (due to their dependency) clearly define over the teachings of these references utilized by the Examiner.

In the alternative, claim 13 recites "an upper portion of the barrier rib overlaps an edge of a pixel electrode". Although the Examiner alleged that Himeshima's spacers 3 in FIG. 14 disclose this feature, Applicants respectfully disagree. In particular, as shown in FIG. 14 of Himeshima, the thin film 10 overlays the entire upper surface of each spacer 3. In other words, Himeshima's spacer 3 cannot prevent the spread of the EL material of the thin film 10 because the EL material is on top of the spacer 3. Therefore, Himeshima's spacer 3 cannot be the "barrier ribs on the substrate for preventing spread of the electroluminescent material" as recited in claim 9 and therefore cannot teach "an upper portion of the barrier rib overlaps an edge of a pixel electrode" as recited in claim 13.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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